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| APPLICATION NO.                               | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 10/799,155                                    | 03/12/2004  | Carl J. Ledbetter    | MSFT-2938/307331.01  | 9531             |
| 41505   | 7590        | 01/30/2008           |                      |                  |
| WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) |             |                      | EXAMINER             |                  |
| CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR                       |             |                      | HARTMAN JR, RONALD D |                  |
| 2929 ARCH STREET                              |             |                      | ART UNIT             | PAPER NUMBER     |
| PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891                   |             |                      | 2121                 |                  |
|   |             |                      | MAIL DATE            | DELIVERY MODE    |
|   |             |                      | 01/30/2008           | PAPER            |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                        |                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |
|                              | 10/799,155             | LEDBETTER ET AL.    |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |
|                              | Ronald D. Hartman Jr.  | 2121                |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 1, it would appear that it is impossible for an opaque layer to have light actually propagate through it since this would contradict the definition of being opaque.

This also applies to claims 36 and 44.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 44-45 are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 44-45 are rejected as being non-statutory since the claimed "computer readable medium" may be interpreted, in light of the applicants specification (e.g. See [0028] and [0037]) as corresponding to a signal, *per se*. Signals are representative of subject matter that is non-statutory.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 17-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by {TWEAKNEWS] – Computer Monitor and Displays Reviews, wherein a Nathan Glentworth reviews a Samsung Syncmaster 151B 15 Inch TFT Monitor (hereinafter: Glentworth).

As best understood, it appears that claim 17 claims a device comprising:

- a housing;
- a lighting component; and
- a translucent layer, wherein light propagates through the layer based on a lighting scheme associated with a condition in the computing system.

This claim is so broad that it is anticipated by a LCD (liquid crystal display) screen of a computing device being utilized to produce an image on the screen of the LCD, during operation of a computing system (i.e. a computer to which the LCD is attached).

An LCD display screen has a housing that contains the components (lighting components; the liquid crystals) that produce the actual images appearing on the screen, whereby a translucent layer (a layer that allows light to pass through it) is manufactured as an integral part of the display so as to ensure protection of the liquid crystals. The display will present images based on the operations of the computing system, that is, if a processor is instructed to present an image, the processor presents image information to an appropriate circuit means which then instructs the LCD to produce the image on the display screen.

Glentworth describes an LCD monitor presenting an image by using a Samsung Syncmaster 151B 15 Inch TFT Monitor, which was publicly known on or before May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, as evidenced an article reviewing it on that date (e.g. See Computer Monitor and

Display Reviews article, wherein the Samsung Syncmaster 151B 15 Inch TFT Monitor is shown and described, wherein the monitor is used for presenting images derived a computing system).

Claims 18-35 are rejected by virtue of being rejected by claim 17.

As per claim 36, the method appears to be adequately anticipated by using an LCD to display an image on the screen of the LCD, wherein the housing is considered the entire structure itself, and does not merely represent a specific material of the LCD.

Claims 37-44 are rejected virtue of being rejected by claim 18.

As per claim 44, this claim is rejected using the rational as already set forth above, with respect to claims 17 and 36, and those rejected are also applied herein.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald D. Hartman Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3684. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 11:00 - 8:30 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on (571) 272-3080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 23, 2008

RDH

*Ronald D Hartman*  
RONALD HARTMAN, JR.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
1/25/2008